

Application No. 10/820,317
Amendment dated April 15, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 28, 2004

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed December 28, 2004. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in complete condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application in this regard.

In regard to the amendments to the drawings, a number of typographical errors were discovered when preparing this Amendment. The typographical errors have been corrected herein. No new matter is being introduced by these amendments.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 11-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,830,080 to Nanaji ("Nanaji"). Additionally, claims 3 and 10 were objected to as depending on rejected base claims but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has submitted a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, filed on even date herewith, to swear behind the Nanaji reference. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Nanaji is no longer a valid reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and respectfully requests that the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 11-16 be withdrawn. Applicant further respectfully requests that because independent claims 1 and 8 are allowable, the objections to claims 3 and 10, which depend from claims 1 and 8 respectively, also be withdrawn.

Applicant has added new independent claims 17 and 18 through this Amendment. Claim 17 includes the elements of claim 3 rewritten in independent form and further includes the elements of the base claim 1 and intervening claim 2. In a

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similar manner, claim 18 includes the elements of claim 10 rewritten in independent form and further includes the elements of the base claim 8 and intervening claim 9. As such, Applicant submits that claims 17 and 18 should be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing response, this application is submitted to be in complete condition for allowance and early notice to this affect is earnestly solicited. If there is any issue that remains which may be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in order to resolve the same and expedite the allowance of this application.

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Applicant is of the opinion that an excess claim fee of \$400.00 is due as a result of this amendment. Applicant is of the opinion that a one month extension of time fee in the amount of \$120.00 is also due. Please apply these charges to Deposit Account No. 23-3000. Moreover, if any additional charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, L.L.P.

By: Steven W. Benintendi
Steven W. Benintendi, Reg. No. 56,297

2700 Carew Tower
441 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 241-2324 (voice)
(513) 241-6234 (facsimile)
K:\VST\110U\amdt.wpd

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant submits herewith proposed drawing changes to correct a number of typographical errors in the previous drawings. In particular, the passages in the blowup drawing of fuel delivery hose 20 in Fig. 1 were improperly labeled. The annular fuel delivery passageway was labeled 32, when it should be 26. Likewise, the vapor passage was labeled 26 when it should be 32. The passageways in hose 20 were also improperly labeled in Figs. 2 and 3 as well. These reference numerals for the passageways have been changed to correctly correspond with the reference numerals used in the specification. The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve these proposed drawing changes. No new matter is being introduced by the revised drawings.

Attachment: Proposed Revised Drawing Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

Annotated Sheet

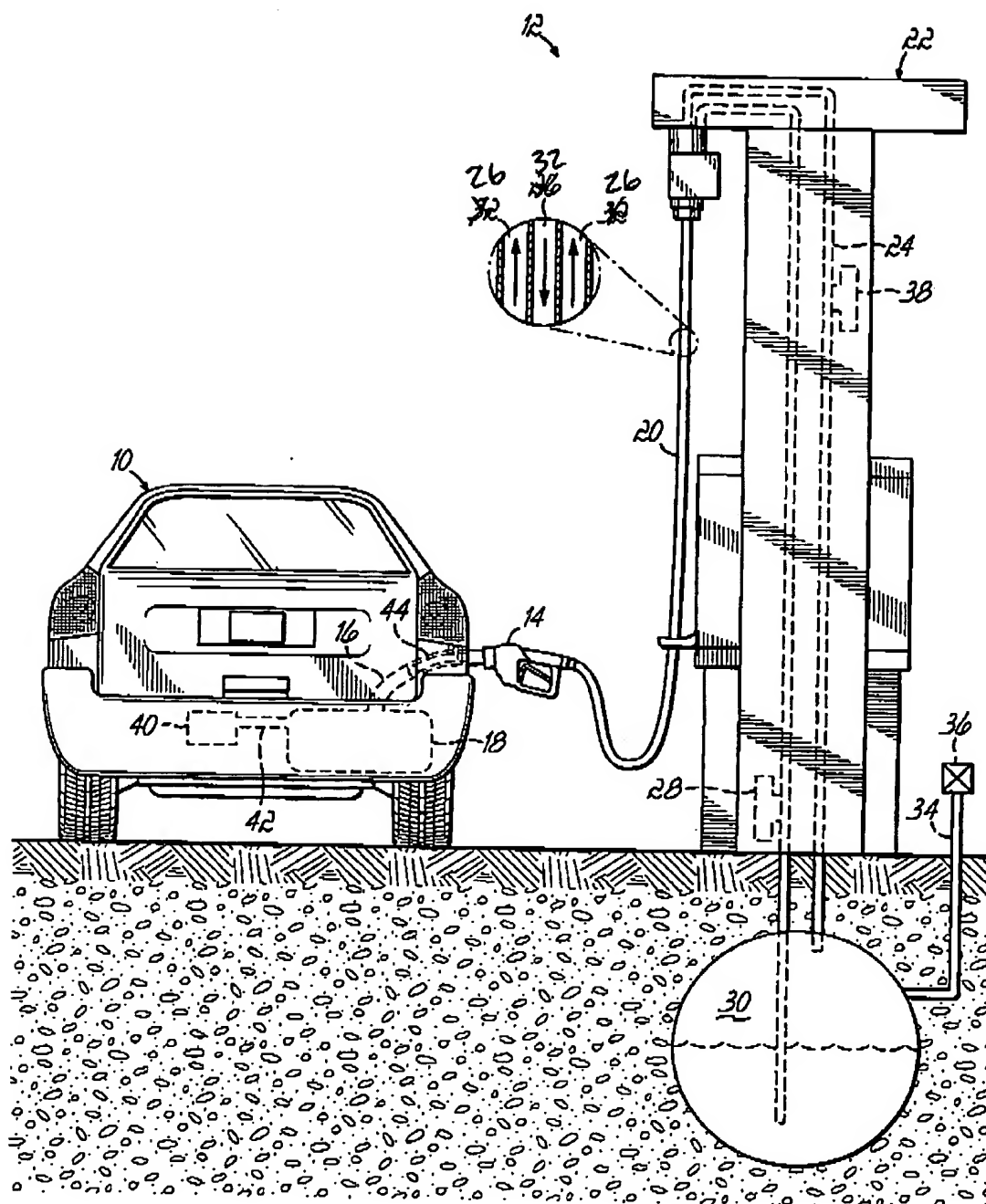


FIG. 1

Annotated Sheet

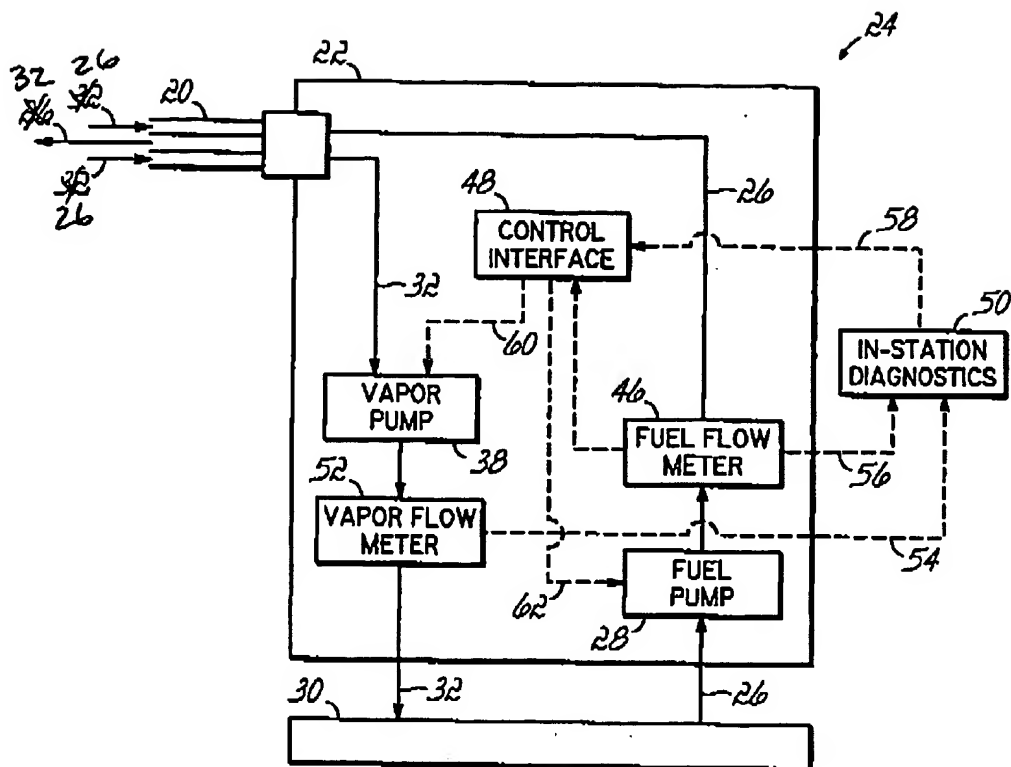


FIG. 2

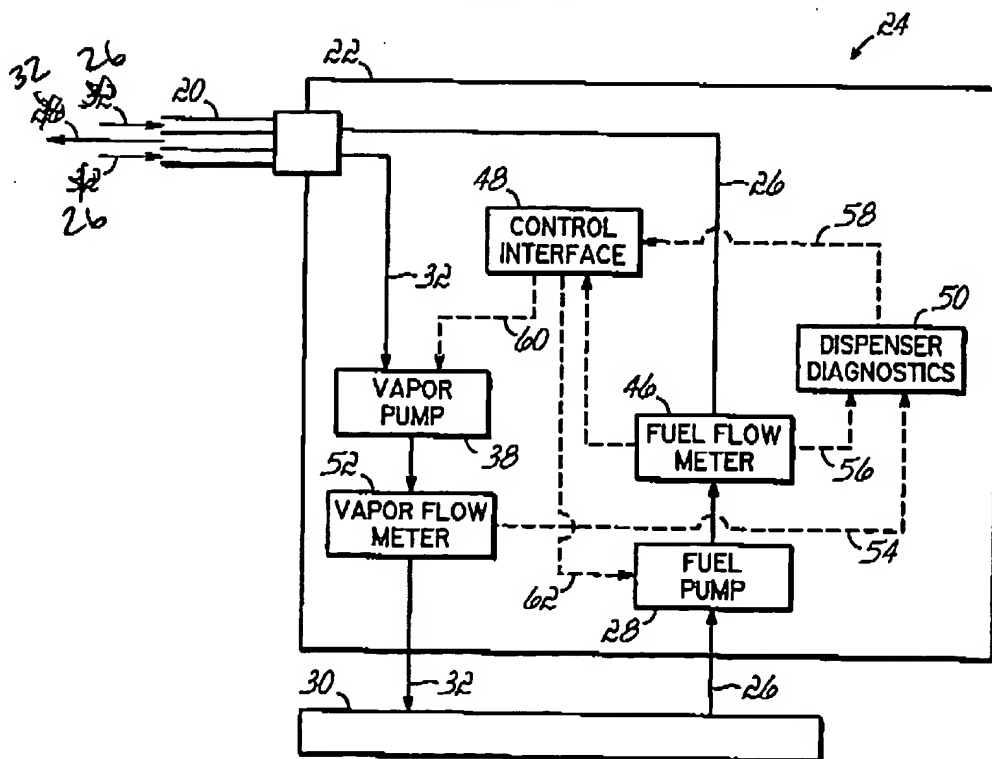


FIG. 3